

National Phase of PCT/FI03/00241

In re: LANKINEN et al.

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) Method for treating a particulate carrier for an inhalation powder improving stability and flow properties of the carrier, **characterized** in that carrier is abraded suspended in a liquid medium into which the carrier is essentially insoluble using an effect below that required for crushing the carrier particles, the liquid medium is removed and the carrier recovered.
2. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the carrier is abraded with a mixing device.
3. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, **characterized** in that the rotation speed of the mixing device is lowered during the treatment.
4. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~any of claim 1 to 3~~, **characterized** in that the carrier suspension is cooled and recirculated to the mixer.
5. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, **characterized** in that the suspension is recirculated through a filter.
6. (Original) A method according to claim 5, **characterized** in that a certain desired size range or ranges are recirculated to the mixing device.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 1, **characterized** in that said media is a hydrocarbon, perfluorinated ether, fluorinated ether, perfluorinated hydrocarbon, fluorinated hydrocarbon, methanol, ethanol or any other alcohol or hydrocarbon.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 1, **characterized** in that said carrier after filtration is used undried for formulation.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 1, **characterized** in that said carrier is dried after filtration and stored for future used.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 1, **characterized** in that the abraded carrier is at least partly covered particles smaller in size than said carrier.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10, **characterized** in that the abraded carrier and the small sized particles are of the same material.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 1, **characterized** in that the carrier to be abraded is lactose or a monohydrate thereof, glucose, mannitol, trehalose, sucrose, any other sugar, polysaccharide or any other compound used as a carrier.

13.(Previously Presented) Carrier for an inhalation powder, which carrier is stable and possesses good flowing properties, **characterized** in that the carrier is abraded suspended in a liquid medium, in which said carrier is essentially insoluble, and using an effect below that required for crushing the carrier particles,

14. (Previously Presented) Carrier according to claim 13, **characterized** in that that the carrier is abraded with a mixing device.

15. (Currently Amended) Carrier according to claim 13 ~~or 14~~, **characterized** in that the carrier is filtrated and used for formulation undried or dried and stored for future use.

16. (Currently Amended) Carrier according to ~~any of the claims 13–15~~ claim 13, **characterised** in that the filtrated carrier contains more than one main range of particle sizes of abraded carrier.

17. (Currently Amended) Carrier according to ~~any of the proceeding claims~~ claim 1, **characterized** in that the carrier to be abraded is lactose or a monohydrate thereof, glucose, mannitol, trehalose, sucrose, any other sugar, polysaccharide or any other compound used as a carrier.

18. (Original) Preparation for inhalation purposes comprising an active agent, a carrier and optional excipients used in inhalable preparation, **characterized** in that at least a part of the carrier used is abraded suspended in a liquid medium, in which the carrier is essentially insoluble.

19. (Original) A preparation according to claim 18, **characterized** in that carrier contains more than one main range of particle sizes.